

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 45-47, 49-59, 61-71, 78, 79, 81, 82, 89 and 90 are pending in the application, with claims 45, 46, 58, 59, 78 and 89 being the independent claims. Claims 72-77, 80, 85-88 and 91 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 78, 89 and 90 are sought to be amended. The amendments have been made in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. *See* discussion below. The amendments after final rejection introduce no new matter and are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claim amendments be entered and considered.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner stated that claims 78-79 and 89-90 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. *See* Office Action, page 6. In accordance with this statement, claims 78 and 89 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended. Claims 79 and 90 (as currently presented) depend from claims 78 and 89,

respectively. In view of the claim amendments, the claim objections are fully accommodated and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 72-77, 80, 85-88 and 91 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. *See* Office Action, page 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth in the Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed on September 26, 2003. Nevertheless, solely to expedite allowance of the application, claims 72-77, 80, 85-88 and 91 have been cancelled. Thus, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Cottingham" clearly legible.

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